

**COVER SHEET FOR AMENDMENT OF
POST-TRAVEL SUBMISSION**

Date/Time Stamp

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

17 AUG -4 PM 12:18

Instructions: Use this form as a cover sheet for any paperwork you may need to submit to the **Office of Public Records** in order to make your Privately Sponsored Post-Travel Submission complete in accordance with Rule 35. **Only complete this form if you need to submit an amendment to a post-travel filing you have already submitted.**

SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING

Name of Traveler: Elizabeth Banicki

Employing Office/Committee: Sullivan

Private Sponsor(s) (List all): AIEF

Travel Date(s): July 1-9, 2017

Description/Title of Attached Forms: PSTCF (final version); Itinerary (detailed version)

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): Post-travel submission
must be amended with the Office of Public Records in SH-232.

8-4-2017
(Date)

Elizabeth Banicki
(Signature of Traveler)

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AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

March 21, 2017

Liz Banicki
Office of the Honorable Dan Sullivan
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Liz,

We would like to invite you to join us for an educational seminar in Israel for congressional staff sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). This year we are offering two seminars. This first trip will depart on Saturday, July 1 and return on Sunday, July 9. The second trip will depart on Saturday, August 12 and return on Sunday, August 20. If you would like to participate in one of these educational seminars, please indicate your preferred dates on the confirmation form.

The trip will explore critical foreign policy and national security challenges facing both Israel and the United States and how the two countries are cooperating in dealing with these issues. The program will include discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. officials, Palestinian representatives and leading academics and journalists. The program will also include:

Briefings on the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities;

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In-depth discussions on the Israeli and Palestinian political climate and prospects for peace, as well as the political changes taking place in the region;

A visit to Israel's southern border and briefings on the threat posed by the terrorist organization Hamas which maintains control over the Gaza strip;

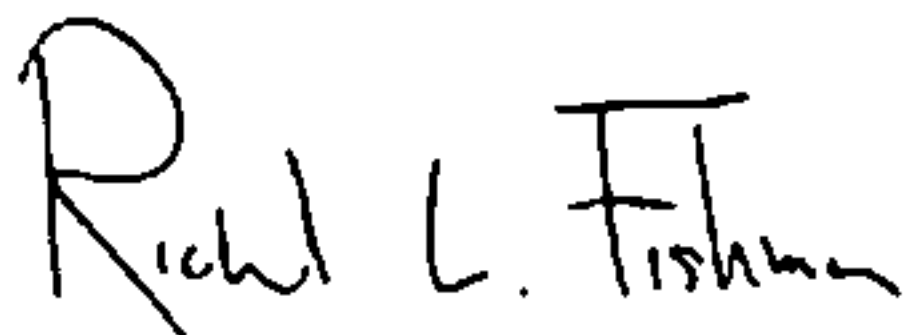
A strategic survey of Israel's northern border;

Visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

No later than 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting two forms, as well as a copy of this invitation to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. AIEF will provide you with a copy of the "Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form." You must also submit a completed and signed "Employee Pre-Travel Authorization Form" to the Committee. AIEF is committed to ensuring that every aspect of the trip complies with the Senate travel rules. If you have any specific questions about the rules, please contact the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Aubrey López at (202) 330-4422. To confirm your participation, please fill out the Participant Confirmation Form to alopez@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,



Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF strives to provide qualitative and balanced educational symposia for members of Congress and congressional

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staff, leaders in the fields of politics and business and students. Established in 1990, AIEF has earned a reputation for producing informative and thought-provoking educational seminars in Israel.

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
2. Description of the trip: Please see attached
3. Dates of travel: July 1-9, 2017
4. Place of travel: Israel
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached
6. I certify that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
- OR -
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I certify that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- AND -
☒ I certify that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I certify that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
- AND -
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)

I certify that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

- ☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

- OR -

- ☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

- OR -

- ☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

- 12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:**

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

- 13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:**

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Please see attached

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15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Please see attached

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$2,529.50	\$1,733	\$900	\$2,517
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				breakdown attached

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b) The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate participants about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Inbal Jerusalem, Sheraton Tel Aviv, Nof Ginosar Tiberias

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

location and affordability

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Please see attached

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will fly coach class on a commercial airline.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

n/a

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (You must include the completed signature block below for each travel sponsor.):

Signature of Travel Sponsor

Name and Title: Richard Fishman, Executive Director

Name of Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Telephone Number: (202) 639-5233

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: rfishman@aiefdn.org

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2017**

Senate Invitees

1. Michelle Altman, Legislative Director, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
2. Elizabeth Banicki, Legislative Assistant, Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)
3. Will Scheffer, Legislative Aide, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
July 1-9, 2017**

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

14/15. Sponsor Information

Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) is the charitable organization affiliated with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby. The Foundation's fundamental purpose is to maintain and further the relationship between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF works to inform the public about Israel and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, to expand public awareness about issues affecting the Middle East, and to encourage participation in public affairs, especially by young people. AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

AIEF funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as religiously motivated pro-Israel Christian, Latino and African American leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants have the opportunity to meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

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-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

-Honoraria for guest speakers

-AIEF pays an upcharge of 21% per room per night, split between our U.S. and Israeli travel vendors

-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$160.00 per person

- The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Other: \$55.00 per person

-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

- On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

-It is customary to tip the driver and tour guide that accompany trip participants.

21. Per Diem

The expenses for lodging and meals are within the international per diems for Israel. The estimate for meal expenses includes the cost for meals, snacks, and water. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.



MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM *Israeli Politics Primer*
Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan
Political Science Department, Hebrew University
- at the hotel

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:15 AM Depart

Old City of Jerusalem & the Holy Basin

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When Israel gained control of eastern Jerusalem after the Six-Day War, the Jewish state immediately abolished Jordanian restrictions on access to the city, allowing all Jews, Christians and Muslims to worship at their holy places. Israel later incorporated the eastern half of the city and declared unified Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel.

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM *Minority Rights in Israel*

Lunch with Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi

**General Director, INJAZ: Center for Professional Arab Local Governance
-at Piccolino**

2:00 PM Depart

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM *Strategic Overview of Jerusalem*

Part II: Jerusalem's Outlying Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

Post-1967 Neighborhoods

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

Security Barrier

After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians launched following the breakdown of the Camp David II talks, Israel began construction of a security barrier near the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. Since its construction began, the number of attacks declined by more than 90% and the number of Israelis murdered and wounded decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively. The barrier is approximately 455 miles long. To Israel, the security barrier serves as a necessary obstacle to protect its people. To the Palestinians and others in the world, the barrier represents a physical and symbolic divide.

This seminar will survey the security barrier at different points along its route to see first-hand the barrier's construction, the operation of crossing points in and out of Palestinian areas, and the technology that facilitates its operation. Both en route to the barrier and at the barrier itself, the group will explore the competing arguments raised by the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community.

3:15 PM **Depart for the Knesset**

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Security Check

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Israeli Democracy in Action</i> Meetings with Members of Knesset <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Honorable Amir Ohana, Likud Party▪ The Honorable Dr. Nachman Shai, Zionist Union Party -at the Knesset
5:00 PM	Return to Hotel
7:15 PM	Depart for dinner
7:30 PM – 9:45 PM	<i>Colleague to Colleague: Knesset Staffers</i> Dinner with Knesset Staffers from various political parties <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Uri Perednick, Likud Party▪ Michaela Cohen, Kulanu Party▪ Yair Zivon, Yesh Atid Party▪ Shaked Hasson, Zionist Union Party - at La Guta
9:45 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Jerusalem

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM **Breakfast on own in the main dining room**
Luggage in the lobby
Check out

8:00 AM Depart

8:30 AM – 10:45 AM *The Meaning of the Holocaust In the Israeli Psyche*
Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust

for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a sprawling complex of museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

10:45 AM Depart

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM *Education and Empowerment for Children with Disabilities*
Visit to SHALVA

Shalva

Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities is dedicated to providing transformative care for individuals with disabilities, empowering their families and promoting social inclusion. Non-denominational and free of charge, Shalva's programs provide an all-encompassing range of services for hundreds of individuals from infancy to adulthood. Additionally, Shalva supports and enables families to raise their children with disabilities within the family framework. Through nearly three decades of award-winning programs, Shalva partners with government, academic and philanthropic institutions in advocacy efforts to create a more inclusive society.

12:15 PM Depart

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM *A View From the Palestinian Authority*
Lunch with Nidal Foqaha
Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition/ Geneva Initiative
-at the American Colony hotel, Pasha Hall

2:00 PM Depart

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM Travel to Tel Aviv

En Route Briefing:
Let There Be Water: Israel Solves its Water Crisis

Let There Be Water: Israel Solves its Water Crisis (en route to Tel Aviv)

In an era of booming populations, shrinking resources and environmental degradation, Israel leads the world in critical fields such as seawater desalination. As nations struggle to make the best use of their resources, Israel's cutting-edge technologies promise to improve the health

and living standards of hundreds of millions across the globe, while making industry more efficient and minimizing the environmental impact of human activities.

Israel operates two of the world's largest desalination plants, the Hadera and Sorek plant. Israel is both 60 percent desert and one of the world's most densely populated countries, so desalination has become a necessity of life. By 2016 it is expected that up to 50 percent of Israel's water supply will be provided by desalination plants.

Israel's success with desalinization has attracted the attention of many developing countries. For one, China has selected an Israeli company to build China's largest desalination plant. The same Israeli company is also working to build the biggest desalinization plant in India. Israeli companies worked with San Diego County in California to develop the largest desalinization plant in the U.S. This came at a critical time when the governor of California has declared the first ever state-wide mandatory reductions on water as a result of one of the most severe droughts in California's history.

- 3:45 PM Check into Sheraton Tel Aviv
- 7:15 PM Depart for dinner
- 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM *Regional Threats Overview and the Palestinian Street*
Dinner with:
- Avi Issacharoff, Mideast Analyst, Times of Israel (will arrive at 8:15)
 - Amos Harel, Military Affairs Analyst, Haaretz
- at Lumina
- 9:30 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

- 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM Breakfast on own at the hotel
- 8:15 AM Depart for Israel's South
- 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM *Life Under Rocket Fire*
Briefings on Israel's Border with the Gaza Strip
-Overlook into Gaza at Nir Am
-Meeting with Oshrit Sabag, local resident of Kibbutz Nachal Oz

commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

1:00 PM Depart

1:15 PM Lunch
- at K2

2:15 PM Depart

3:30 PM Return to hotel

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM *Israel's Missile Defense*
Briefing with Ari Sacher
Iron Dome Systems Project Manager, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
- at the hotel

7:30 PM – 8:00 PM Depart for dinner

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM *Tikkun Olam: Israel's Global Footprint*

- Moshe Friedman, Founder, KamaTech
- Gal Lusky, Founder, Israel Flying Aid
- Sivan Yaari, Founder, Innovation Africa
- Ariel Beery, Founder, Mobile ODT

- at Deca

Israel's Global Footprint

Israel's Global Footprint will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The group will be meeting with innovators that are global leaders in water conservation, fighting against HIV/AIDS through medical innovation, and bringing Israeli technology and medicine to third world countries.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

7:30 AM – 7:45 AM Luggage in the lobby
Check out

7:45 AM – 8:00 AM Breakfast served

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM *Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq*
Briefing with Jonathan Spyer
Director, Rubin Center at IDC, Herzliya
- at the hotel

9:15 AM	Depart, travel north
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10:00 AM – 10:45 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline*
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "silicon valley", as well as Ben Gurion International airport.

The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

10:45 AM – 1:00 PM Depart

En route briefing:

- *The Jezreel Valley: The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee: Potential for Development*

The Jezreel Valley

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In modern times, during World War I, for example, the British and Turkish forces fought a number of pitched battles in the valley. In 1948, following Israel's establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel's "breadbasket" known

for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel's Arab citizens. A visit to this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

Upper Galilee

The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs. Best known among them is the Tefen Industrial area, home to numerous enterprises established by the region's residents – Jewish and Arab. In 2006, Upper Galilee's ISCAR Metal Working Company was purchased for \$5 billion by Warren Buffet's conglomerate holding company. Since then, a number of American investors have become partners in some of the region's hi-tech and bio-tech companies.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Lunch
- In Old City of Tzfat

2:15 PM Depart

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM *Treating Syria's Wounded*
Visit to Ziv Medical Center

The Ziv Medical Center

The Ziv Medical Center is situated in the heart of Israel's rural northern landscape and provides health care services and treatment for the north's ethnically and religiously diverse population. Since February 2013, Israel has taken in Syrians wounded in the course of the civil war currently being waged in that country. Many are treated at a field hospital on the border, where soldiers and paramedics of the IDF on the Israeli Golan Heights give them initial first aid and life- saving care. The Syrian wounded then either return to Syria, or are taken to an Israeli hospital to receive further treatment. Ziv Hospital is one such hospital, and has treated nearly five hundred

victims of the Syrian conflict. At Ziv, the Syrian wounded, including children, civilians and militants alike, are provided with the best possible care from Israeli physicians using state of the art medical equipment. Although Israel and Syria have been in a state of war for decades, the Israeli doctors and staff at Ziv provide humanitarian aid for the wounded without regard for the patients' political or military affiliation. These efforts have been supported by The Israeli Health Department, which has spent well over 5 million dollars treating the wounded.

4:15 PM Depart

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM *Hezbollah Next Door*
Briefing on the border with Lebanon
With Maj. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi
Northern Border Expert
- at Mt. Adir

5:30 PM Depart

6:30 PM **Check into the Nof Ginosar Hotel**

8:00 PM **Depart for dinner**

8:15 PM – 10:00 PM *Northern Exposure*
Israeli Life on the Border with Lebanon and Syria
Dinner and Discussion
- at Decks

Dinner and Discussion

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

10:00 PM **Overnight at Nof Ginosar Tiberias**

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Breakfast on own
Luggage in the lobby
Check out

8:30 AM Depart

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM *Historical, Religious and Geopolitical Significance of the Sea of Galilee*

Visit to:

- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Primacy of Peter Church
- Capernaum

Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided walk through and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as explorations of Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Visits ends, depart, travel to the Golan Heights

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM *The Tragedy in Syria*
Strategic guided survey of the Israeli-Syrian border
- at Ein Zivan

1:00 PM Depart

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM Lunch joined by IDF soldiers serving on the Syrian border
- at Asado

2:30 PM – 5:30 PM Depart for Jerusalem
Travel via the Jordan Valley

En route briefing:

- *Israel's Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
- *Jordan's Syrian Refugee Crisis*

Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994,

marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

5:30 PM Check into the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel

6:45 PM Depart

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM *Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem*
Traditional Sabbath dinner
With Karyn and Joe Gelman
- at their home in Jerusalem

The Sabbath in Jerusalem

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. The Sabbath is especially significant in Jerusalem, home to the holiest site for Jews worldwide - the remains of the First and Second Temple.

The dinner will include a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations; the potential for a final status agreement on Jerusalem (arguably the most sensitive final status issue); and the diplomatic challenges faced by Israel and the United States regarding Israeli urban development in the area.

9:00 PM Overnight at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2017

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel, main dining room

8:30 AM Depart

En route briefing:

- *Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor: Strategic Concerns*

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor

On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the "Jericho Road" is the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city's division that lasted until 1967. Since then Israel has established the City of Ma'ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma'ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma'ale Adumim's boundary, into an area known as "E-1", the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

10:00 AM – 12: 15 PM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Visit to Masada National Archeological Site

Masada

The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. "Masada shall never fall again" has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel's elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel's contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. viewing the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

Closing Dinner

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead-Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered throughout the week.

8:30 PM Depart for the Airport

11:10 PM Depart Ben Gurion

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

4:15 AM **Arrive Newark**

6:00 AM Depart Newark

7:33 AM **Arrive Washington, D.C. (DCA)**